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PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION



# History, Art, and a New Park

## HISTORIC BELMAR PARK IS UNVEILED

The City of Santa Monica hosted a virtual grand opening celebration earlier this year to unveil Historic Belmar Park, Santa Monica's newest open space. Historic Belmar Park expands Santa Monica's parks system and provides a space for recreation and historical reflection on a site where some of Santa Monica's earliest African American residents lived and worked.

The grand opening celebration provided a first look at the park, which contains a sports field, a series of historical interpretive signs based on research by historian Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson, along an encircling .4 mile walking path, and the monumental new sculpture, "A Resurrection in Four Stanzas," created by artist April Banks. These elements were developed through the Belmar History + Art project, a collaboration between the

City of Santa Monica and community leaders to mark the site of this historical injustice and tell the stories of the Black community members there who, from the turn of the 20th century until being displaced in the 1950s, contributed to Santa Monica's character and vibrancy.

A recording of the virtual event can be found on the City of Santa Monica's YouTube channel. To learn more, visit [santamonica.gov/historicbelmarpark](http://santamonica.gov/historicbelmarpark).



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### Santa Monica Community

Support 1,000 Santa Monica small businesses with grants for rent relief, payroll, and direct expenses. Donate to the We Are Santa Monica Fund at [CalFund.org/WeAreSantaMonica](http://CalFund.org/WeAreSantaMonica) (Select "Business Recovery Support")

we are **santa monica.**

### Santa Monica Businesses

Find out more information and apply for the SaMo Small Business Recovery Grant Program at [santamonica.gov/economicrecovery](http://santamonica.gov/economicrecovery).



# COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE



**S**anta Monica's health and safety is our top priority. The nation, state, and county, as well as the City, have faced tremendous challenges throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. We know this has been hard for our community, and we have worked at every opportunity to save and improve lives.

Right now the City of Santa Monica is working every day to secure as many COVID-19 vaccines as possible for our community. There are supply and logistic challenges across the nation, but we are in close collaboration with federal, state, and local partners including local healthcare providers and pharmacies to advocate for local vaccine availability and to get vaccines out to as many people as possible in safe and convenient ways. Groups of eligible persons who can receive COVID-19 vaccinations are established by the State and LA County Department of Public Health to prioritize how vaccinations will roll out to different audiences. Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) or call (833) 540-0473 (8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.) for the latest updates on the COVID-19 vaccine in LA County, including the latest list of eligible audiences or to make a vaccine appointment once you are eligible.

The CDC and LA County Department of Public Health recently released guidance on what fully vaccinated individuals can do. Find this information at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html).

While we all wait our turn for a vaccine, please continue to do your part and wear a mask, keep our distance from non-household members, and follow the safety protocols closely. And remember, even once you receive the vaccine, these safety measures remain critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19. **Thanks for your continued patience, cooperation, and support!**

## COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

COVID-19 continues to be a dynamic situation. For the latest Health Officer Order, health protocols, and more, check the links below.

**Reminders:** Wear a face covering, stay 6 feet apart, wash your hands, do not gather in groups, stay home when sick, and self-quarantine if you have been exposed.

- Official Vaccine Information: [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com), [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), or call LA County at (833) 540-0473
- COVID-19: [santamonica.gov/coronavirus](https://www.santamonica.gov/coronavirus), [covid19.lacounty.gov](https://www.covid19.lacounty.gov), and [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov)
- Reopening Info: [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-reopenings](https://www.santamonica.gov/coronavirus-reopenings)
- Economic Recovery: [santamonica.gov/economicrecovery](https://www.santamonica.gov/economicrecovery) | [santamonicashines.com](https://www.santamonicashines.com)
- Volunteer: [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-volunteer](https://www.santamonica.gov/coronavirus-volunteer)
- Email Updates: [santamonica.gov/newsletter](https://www.santamonica.gov/newsletter)
- Emergency Alerts: [santamonica.gov/alerts](https://www.santamonica.gov/alerts)

# CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIZES STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

**A**t its annual study session on homelessness, the Santa Monica City Council provided input and prioritized strategies to build on Santa Monica's four pillars to address homelessness with the goal to ensure public spaces are safe, clean, and healthy for all in the community to enjoy and by delivering impactful services to people in need. Council continued the work of Santa Monica's multi-disciplinary street outreach teams and Reed Park Ambassadors and prioritized the expansion of rental assistance to prevent Santa Monicans from becoming homeless.

In previous years, the results of the Homeless Count would have been shared, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 count was canceled by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. While the last count in 2020 showed positive results including an 8% decrease in Santa Monica compared to a 13% increase countywide, COVID-19 has exacerbated Los Angeles County's twin crises of housing and homelessness, and stymied interventions due to things like limited shelter capacity and an overburdened court system.

Council prioritized the following additional strategies for consideration during the forthcoming biennial budget process.

1. Extended Emergency Rental Assistance to prevent residents from falling into homelessness.
2. An alternative non-congregate shelter on City property.
3. A behavioral health triage center.
4. Low acuity crisis response unit in the Santa Monica Fire Department.

City Council also affirmed Santa Monica's four pillar approach to addressing homelessness: **Prevent** housed Santa Monicans from becoming homeless; **address** the behavioral health needs of vulnerable residents; **advocate** for regional capacity to address homelessness; and **maintain** access to safe, fun, and healthy open spaces.

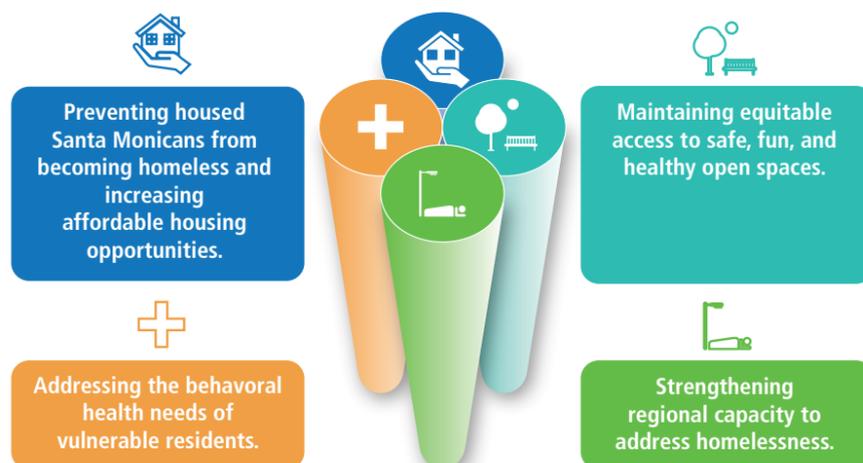
Here's a look at the City's multi-departmental approach to addressing homelessness including metrics that provide local context to this regional crisis:

- Santa Monica's shelter capacity includes 369 beds.
- Homeless Services Grants Program funds 8 programs totaling \$2.9 million with \$1.9 million non-City matching funds.
- Interim housing serves 111 people and in Santa Monica, only 15% exiting to the streets compared to 31% in Los Angeles.

- Ninety-five new affordable housing residences were created in 2020.
- The C3 outreach team had 1,400 unduplicated engagements in the downtown and beach areas, which is also where the largest decreases in the homeless count occurred.
- Legal assistance was provided to 695 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Homelessness prevention programs supported 900 households with funds to stay housed and 800 households received support services.
- 37% reduction in police and fire contacts for the City's highest users of emergency services.
- SMFD responded to 2,946 homeless-related calls (18% of total calls).
- LA County Department of Mental Health clinicians embedded in the Santa Monica Police Department conducted 189 evaluations, resulting in 119 linkages to psychiatric urgent care or hospitalization.
- An alternative dispatch emergency response model is in progress.

Learn more about the City's commitment to addressing homelessness and impacts of COVID-19: [weare.santamonica.gov/addressing-homelessness](https://www.weare.santamonica.gov/addressing-homelessness).

## 4 Pillars for Addressing Homelessness



# WELCOME TO OUR CITY COUNCIL

Go to [santamonica.gov/council](http://santamonica.gov/council) for bios, the upcoming meeting schedule, and quick links to join the next meeting including how to participate, submit written comments, and the request to speak. Contact all seven council members at once by emailing [council@santamonica.gov](mailto:council@santamonica.gov).

**Mayor Sue Himmelrich** joined the Santa Monica City Council in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018 before one year on the Planning Commission. A 28-year resident, Mayor Himmelrich is passionate about affordable housing, combining strong fiscal policy with progressive and compassionate social policies, and protecting vulnerable community members. As Special Counsel for the Western Center on Law and Poverty, she fights for those who don't have the means to defend themselves.

**Mayor Pro Tem Kristin McCowan** was raised in the Pico neighborhood. When she left to build a career and work in the Obama Administration she carried Santa Monica close to her heart and waited for the right moment to return to raise her two children with her husband. She is particularly invested in racial justice, economic recovery, and engaging working moms.

**Phil Brock** is a second-generation Santa Monican whose life is dedicated to our city. He has volunteered on city commissions and boards for 23 years as a voice for parks, open space, children, seniors, and the arts. He has demonstrated his commitment by playing a leading role in many local, national, and international non-profit organizations including Kiwanis, Salvation Army, Elks, and the SaMoHi Alumni Association.

**Glean Davis** and her husband John came here in 1986 to start a family after law school. Glean is a very proud mother of a West Point graduate. Her passion for education and social services is what spawned her public service. She cares deeply about community wellbeing and ensuring future generations have access to housing and a car free existence.

**Oscar de la Torre** was born and raised in Santa Monica where he and his wife Maria are raising their two sons. Oscar founded a youth center that continues to support local youth and he served for 18 years on our local Board of Education. Oscar has dedicated his life to supporting our most marginalized youth and their families.

**Kevin McKeown** moved into his Santa Monica apartment 45 years ago to be general manager of KROQ, and as the last renter left on the Council, he continues his passion for renters' rights and affordable housing. A fierce environmentalist, Kevin's more likely to be seen on his bike than in his Prius, especially since the pandemic.

**Christine Parra** grew up spending summers roller skating on the Third Street Promenade and has been a Santa Monica resident for the past 23 years raising her 3 sons with her husband Jose. When she's not filling her role as Council Member, she works for a local fire department in emergency management.

## NEW 311 PROGRAM LAUNCHES TO PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES

**S**anta Monica's new 311 program launched on March 31 to provide easy access to information and all non-emergency City services for our residents, businesses, and visitors. Available in English and Spanish, simply dial 3-1-1 on your phone within Santa Monica or (866) 311-SaMo from outside City limits, email [311@santamonica.gov](mailto:311@santamonica.gov), or use the new SaMo App to quickly access information or report requests for service from any mobile device.

The 311 consolidated customer service model has proven to be successful in several cities nationwide, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York City. New York's 311 system has helped the City respond to over 200,000 calls annually, and by streamlining customer service requests to devoted 311 staff, the City's operational staff are better able to focus on meeting community needs. Here in Santa Monica, 311 will replace the Santa Monica Works/Go system, unify several different customer service tools and phone numbers into a single customer service program, and make getting information and work done with the City easier.

### HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:

1. Submit your request by emailing [311@santamonica.gov](mailto:311@santamonica.gov), completing an online form at [santamonica.gov/311](http://santamonica.gov/311), using the City's new mobile app, or calling us at 3-1-1 within city boundaries or (866) 311-SaMo from outside Santa Monica.
2. Our Customer Service Assistants will answer your question, put you in touch with the right City staff member, and/or create a ticket so we can track your request and make sure it gets resolved.
3. City staff will work together to resolve your request, and you can opt-in to receive status update emails. If you opted-in to be notified, you will receive a notification when your request has been completed.

### WHEN TO CONTACT 311

311 is Santa Monica's portal for all City services that do not require fire or police personnel dispatch (both emergency or non-emergency). If you need to report an emergency, please continue to call 911, and for non-emergency dispatch, please call (310) 458-8491. The following are some the most common reasons that community members should contact the City's 311 system:

- Ask a question or provide input about City programs or policies (e.g. COVID-19, housing, homelessness, parks)
- Report downed tree branches/palm fronds, a broken parking meter, or illegal dumping
- Request street/sidewalk repair or graffiti removal
- Ask how to get started on city permits or processes

Requests can be submitted 24/7 using the 311 online forms at [santamonica.gov/311](http://santamonica.gov/311) or on our mobile app. For more information about 311 and instructions on how to download the mobile app, visit [santamonica.gov/311](http://santamonica.gov/311).

### MAKE SURE YOU'RE TALKING TO US!

Get in touch with us no matter where you are. Phone systems will connect you to the 311 system in your jurisdiction so when calling Santa Monica from near or outside city limits, please call our direct number: (866) 311-SaMo.





# MARRYING FOOD AND ENTREPRENEURISM IN THE PICO NEIGHBORHOOD

**V**irginia Avenue Park, nestled within the City's most ethnically and culturally diverse neighborhood, is a community hub that offers a wide variety of educational, cultural, and virtual programs and events to youth and their families in the Pico Neighborhood.

The Pico Neighborhood has been especially vulnerable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pico is experiencing the highest unemployment rate in the City, with many residents having recently lost work or are underemployed from jobs in the hospitality industry. In response, a collaborative effort is underway as part of the City's Economic Recovery

Task Force between local residents, community groups, and City staff to marry the desire of local residents with their dream to start their own food businesses to gain economic stability.

The conversation to build a commercial kitchen at Virginia Avenue Park is not a new one. It was first recommended before the pandemic by Virginia Avenue Park parent groups, Familias Latinas Unidas and Parent Connection Group, and other neighborhood residents. In 2019, the City Council proposed a comprehensive economic development program declaring "incubating small businesses and entrepreneurs" as one of the plan's five priorities. The resulting Pico Wellbeing Project identified business incubator programs and a community-led commercial kitchen at Virginia Avenue Park as a top priority for creating pathways to entrepreneurship. Using the initial design prepared by a local professional kitchen designer gratis, the City's Architectural Services team has expanded the initial design to transform the Virginia Avenue Park kitchen into a full-service commercial kitchen.

Now more than ever is the time to come together to support resilient and inspired residents seeking pathways to entrepreneurship, skill development, and economic stability. The City's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force has provided \$100,000 as seed funding towards the commercial kitchen. The City has begun the process of soliciting funding support from charitable foundations and is also seeking proposals from qualified commercial kitchen operators to make this initiative a reality. If you're interested in learning more about this project, how to get involved, or track its progress, visit [santamonica.gov/vapcommercialkitchen](https://santamonica.gov/vapcommercialkitchen).



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING HELPS OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE

**H**aving a safe, stable, and affordable home helps children succeed in school, allows adults to focus on supporting their families, and means that seniors can live with dignity in the community they helped create. Our friends and neighbors can live close to work, grow roots in the community, and afford rent without having to compromise other necessities.

Santa Monica assists in meeting basic needs and invests in affordable housing for a range of household types and income levels. Here's an update on some of our progress over the past year:

- More than 150 senior households experiencing economic hardship received financial assistance through the Preserving Our Diversity (POD) pilot program. The POD program provides monthly cash assistance to very low-income, long-term Santa Monica seniors in rent-controlled apartments to help cover basic needs like food, healthcare, and transportation. Additional assistance is available for another 100 to 300 households. Please encourage friends, family, and neighbors to apply!
- With more than \$20 million in investments from the City, developers are constructing 77 new apartments for senior households across two properties: Community Corporation of Santa Monica's Greenway Meadows at 1820 14th Street and EAH Housing's Magnolia Villas at 1445 10th Street. Seniors age 62 and over who earn low-to-moderate income in Santa Monica can rent these apartments for \$538 to \$1,214 per month.

- The City has referred more than 1,800 households to affordable apartments through the Below Market Housing (BMH) program waitlist and continues to accept applications for this program offering apartment rents lower than market rate. Households on the BMH waitlist are notified when vacancies occur for apartments that fit the income level and household size.

Visit [santamonica.gov/housing](https://santamonica.gov/housing) to learn more about affordable housing resources and apply.



## SANTA MONICA RECEIVES OVER \$5.5 MILLION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRODUCTION



**T**he California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has announced two significant awards to the City of Santa Monica for future affordable housing production.

"Affordable housing, always a precious resource, has become even more necessary as greater numbers of our community suffer the financial hardships brought on by the pandemic," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "We are pleased that the state recognizes us as a partner in our collective pursuit to address California's affordability crisis, and we thank HCD for this much appreciated contribution to our affordable housing trust fund that will offer stability to Santa Monicans."

The first is an award of \$5 million from the California Local Housing Trust Program (LHTF). The program provides a State match to qualifying local housing trust funds. The City was awarded the maximum amount in recognition of existing local trust funds, as well as the City's financial commitments to affordable housing in the pipeline. The second is an award of \$547,516 from the Permanent Local Housing Allocation program for the current year and approximately \$3.3 million over five years.

"This is significant and welcome support from the state that will spur the production and preservation of affordable housing," said Andy Agle, Director of the City's Community Services Department. "The awards reflect Santa Monica's commitment to affordable housing and will help preserve existing housing and bring more affordable residences to the community."

Both sources of funding will be combined with the City's housing trust funds to facilitate three affordable housing developments currently in the pipeline, including the preservation of 40 affordable residences in the Pico neighborhood and the construction of new affordable housing for young adults and other persons experiencing homelessness.



# ART OF RECOVERY HARNESSES THE POWER OF THE ARTS TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY, AND HEALTH RECOVERY



**A**rt of Recovery, one of the City's Economic Recovery initiatives, launched last year to harness the arts to play a major role in recovery efforts by funding artistic works and creative projects that stimulate economic recovery, community connectedness and restorative justice, and/or public health and safety. Landmarks and public spaces have transformed into works of art, inviting people to these spaces while encouraging safety. On Main Street, the concrete barriers lining the alfresco dining became a corridor of painted art. In December storefronts along Third Street Promenade were reimagined as holiday works of art, and in February, as a showcase for local Black artists for Black History Month. The Pier featured its first Day of the Dead tribute with giant La Catrina sculptures, and its iconic Merry-Go-Round windows were taken over by Bob Baker Marionettes.

Projects connecting the community and addressing restorative justice took the form of community storytelling, commemorating lives lost to COVID-19, and giving life to imagined choreographies from dancers inside prison. Building Bridges Art Exchange, Bergamot businesses and artist Marcos Lutyens, presented Rose River Memorial, an exhibition and collective memorial of felt roses, made by community members, each honoring someone from Los Angeles lost to COVID-19. "Undanced Dances Through Prison Walls During a Pandemic" by choreographer Suchi Branfman, brings to life imagined written choreographies that incarcerated dancers sent, and that are performed by dancers, community activists, and formerly incarcerated narrators.

"What's 6 Feet?", a project by artist Marni Gittleman, features interactive prompts painted on the ground at Virginia Avenue Park, inside the windows of the Pier carousel, and on sidewalks, that call for creative responses via an Instagram challenge. UrbanRock Design created playful, engaging, and warm physical distance markers of active people wearing masks, promoting COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. These projects have fostered connection and encouraged the sharing of experiences. Art of Recovery projects support the creative network that complements and strengthens other efforts in Santa Monica's recovery. Look for new projects in the coming months. For more information, visit [santamonica.gov/arts/artofrecovery](http://santamonica.gov/arts/artofrecovery).



## CREST SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 14

**C**REST Summer Camp is a day camp for youth ages 8-14. Campers will experience a variety of enrichment, recreation, and sports activities plus walking trips to local parks. The City of Santa Monica continues to place the highest value on the health and safety of our community. The program will operate in accordance with CDC & LA County Public Health Guidelines for Day Camps to keep everyone safe during this time. All staff and participants will be pre-screened for COVID-19 symptoms. Temperatures will be taken using infrared touchless thermometers as part of the check in process. Participants will be assigned to a stable cohort.

Online registration opens at 6 a.m. on April 14 at [smgov.net/reserve](http://smgov.net/reserve). Walk in registration will not be available. Please submit full and complete registration forms (including full payment information) through the mailbox slot at the Youth Office at Reed Park (1133 7th Street). Paper registration forms will be processed in the order received during regular business hours. Assistance will be available over the phone at (310) 458-8540.

Financial Assistance is available. Please contact us for more information as we are currently accepting applications. Families who have not reapplied for Financial Assistance for the 2020-21 school year will need to reapply. For the latest information on CREST programming, visit us at [smgov.net/crest](http://smgov.net/crest).



## CITY COUNCIL SETS COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AHEAD OF BIENNIAL BUDGET PROCESS

**O**n March 13, the Santa Monica City Council held a special retreat session to set community priorities for the next two years to guide the biennial (2021 - 2023) budget adopted this June. The priorities were informed by perspectives from more than 3,000 community members and the City's values of accountability, equity, inclusion, innovation, resilience, safety, and stewardship. In a 4-3 vote, the City Council selected the following as the most important areas of focus as we mark one year of our lives in the pandemic:

- 1. Addressing Homelessness:** Prevent housed Santa Monicans from becoming homeless; address the behavioral health needs of vulnerable individuals; advocate for regional capacity to address homelessness; and maintain access to safe, fun, and healthy open spaces.
- 2. Clean and Safe Santa Monica:** Create an atmosphere marked by clean and safe public spaces and neighborhoods.
- 3. Equitable and Inclusive Economic Recovery:** Cultivate equitable and inclusive economic opportunity and recovery, including access for all community members to educational, employment, and economic resources and opportunities, and create a community where differences in life outcomes cannot be predicted by race, class, gender, disability, or other identities.

"The City Council today chose to focus for the next two years on the two issues overwhelmingly favored in the unscientific survey of the

public's priorities, addressing homelessness and promoting clean and safe neighborhoods. But we also added as a priority the promotion of an equitable and just economic recovery in recognition of the challenges and historical inequities laid bare in the last horrific year," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "We also will not falter in fulfilling our existing careful and ambitious plans as leaders in sustainability and affordable housing."

The meeting was held amidst positive signs that recovery is more eminent than ever. As of Monday, March 15, Los Angeles County will move into the next phase of reopening and recovery. Indoor dining will return, expanded fitness and entertainment opportunities will be available, and local schools will begin a phased return to in-person instruction. In a pivotal action, President Biden has committed to having vaccines available to every American adult by the end of May and, as of Thursday, he signed the American Rescue Plan, infusing \$1.9 trillion of stimulus into the U.S. economy. This package includes \$29.3 million for Santa Monica, which will stabilize the City's budget after a year of deep revenue losses.

The priorities selected by Council will first inform an April 13th City Council meeting to allocate the American Rescue Plan stimulus within the allowable areas outlined in the bill and over a four year period. The aid will also allow GSH tax revenues to be restored to support affordable housing. The FY 2021-23 budget book will be become available to the public on May 10 followed by a biennial budget study session on May 25, and finally, the budget adoption is set for June 22, 2021.



# WE ARE SANTA MONICA FUND RAISES OVER \$1.1 MILLION TOWARD LOCAL RECOVERY

**T**hank You Santa Monica for your generous support of the We Are Santa Monica Fund! The fund was established by the City to support nonprofits with direct costs related to COVID-19, business recovery, and the Black Agenda in Santa Monica and is managed through the California Community Foundation (CCF), a 501c3 public charity and leading nonprofit organization driving change throughout LA County. A donation to the We Are Santa Monica Innovation Fund is a donation to a donor-advised fund. The City makes recommendations to CCF regarding the distribution of the proceeds, which CCF will distribute to eligible nonprofits or uses by the City.

## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK:

- \$1.145 million dollars donated to the We Are Santa Monica Fund from November 12 to December 30, 2020.
- Over 200 Santa Monica families/individuals receive support from Virginia Avenue Park emergency food pantry each week. To date, over 12,000 food bags, including fresh produce distributed to families/individuals experiencing food insecurity.
- During the first full months of the pandemic, April through July, 42% of low-income households in L.A. County — and 26% of all households in the county — experienced at least one instance of food insecurity. *Source:* LA County Department of Public Health
- \$150,000 allocated from the We Are Santa Monica Fund secures emergency food pantry services through at least June 30, 2021.

Our Santa Monica friends and neighbors need support due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **COVID-19 Relief for Santa Monica Residents** - Many Santa Monica residents have been impacted by the COVID-19 health emergency. Donations support impacts of COVID-19 on Santa Monica residents including housing and food insecurity.
- **Business Recovery** - The COVID-19 health emergency has heavily impacted Santa Monica's economy and in May, Santa Monica businesses experienced damages as a result of civil unrest. Donations to the We Are Santa Monica Fund supports efforts aimed at recovery so our businesses can continue to serve the community.
- **Black Agenda in Santa Monica** - The health and economic impacts of COVID-19—and the national movement to rethink public safety—have laid bare the effect of structural racism on Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. The We Are Santa Monica Fund offers donors a vehicle to support the Black Agenda in Santa Monica and citywide efforts to advance racial equity in our community.
- **Emergency Food Pantry at Virginia Avenue Park** - The City of Santa Monica operates an emergency food pantry at Virginia Avenue Park to help serve those facing food insecurity in our community. Donations help serve families in need with nutritious food boxes. A donation of \$50 supports a family for two weeks. A donation of \$100 supports a family for an entire month.

To make a donation to the We Are Santa Monica Fund, visit [calfund.org/wearesantamonica](http://calfund.org/wearesantamonica).

## Virginia Avenue Park Food Pantry

The Virginia Avenue Park Food Pantry has been operating for an entire year with the support of your donations and community volunteers who are the backbone of our operations and essential to feeding the community. Meet Nikki and Warren - just two of our amazing volunteers!

### NICOLA (NIKKI) EDWARDS, AGE: 51



**Why do you volunteer?** Over the last few years I have been very lucky to have some extra time on my hands. In wanting to give back to my community and to others who aren't as fortunate as me, I've found it very rewarding to spend some of those days and hours volunteering for a variety of organizations in and around Los Angeles. I've met some lovely people, had some wonderful experiences and had my eyes opened to a lot of what I was either unfamiliar with or wasn't even aware of. Since COVID, all of those opportunities have either stopped completely or gone online and so I was looking for a safe and local way to help my community through this tough time.

**What does volunteering at the Pantry mean to you?** I thoroughly enjoy volunteering at the pantry. I am a Registered Dietitian and through most of my career have worked for a non-profit organization that helped low income Californians gain access to free or low-cost healthy food. Primarily that was through the federal food programs like the school meals program or the SNAP/Calfresh program. I have worked with a number of food banks and pantries, community centers and other food advocacy groups over the years, so when the opportunity to help my fellow Santa Monicans stay healthy and fed through this local food pantry opened up, I jumped on it. All of the staff are so appreciative, supportive and flexible and have made it so easy. I've also enjoyed meeting the other volunteers from my community and I feel good in that I'm ultimately helping some of my less fortunate neighbors get through this difficult time.

### WARREN MULLISEN, AGE: 77



**Why do you volunteer?** Volunteering gives me a good feeling that I am helping individuals and families who need help.

**What does volunteering at the Pantry mean to you?** At the Pantry we work as a group to fill the bags. There is a positive high energy "vibe".

Pre-assembled food bags are open to Santa Monica residents and families with children enrolled in SMMUSD by appointment only. Contact: (424) 410-1354, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To volunteer or get involved in the Virginia Avenue Food Pantry, visit [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-volunteer](http://santamonica.gov/coronavirus-volunteer) or email [elizabeth.scharetg@santamonica.gov](mailto:elizabeth.scharetg@santamonica.gov).



## VOTE NOW FOR THE MOST LOVED SANTA MONICA BUSINESS CONTEST

**I**t's time to vote for your Most Loved Santa Monica businesses of 2021. The voting period runs from April 1-30. This year's contest has been revamped and is bigger and better than ever! The contest is now divided into two phases—nomination and voting—plus we have expanded the categories and added a Most Loved business participation award too. Now more than ever, we need to share our love with our favorite local businesses and help provide them the hope and encouragement to survive. And it's super easy. You can do this from the comfort of your home or a quick click on your phone. To vote for your Most Loved Santa Monica businesses, visit [smdp.com/ml21#](http://smdp.com/ml21#). The winners will be announced in June.

The annual Most Loved Santa Monica contest is a partnership of the Buy Local Santa Monica Committee and the Santa Monica Daily Press with support provided by the City of Santa Monica, Downtown Santa Monica Inc., Main Street Business Improvement Association, Montana Avenue Merchants Association, Pico Improvement Organization, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, and Santa Monica Travel and Tourism. For more information about the contest and to see previous years winners, visit [BuyLocalSM.com/most-loved](http://BuyLocalSM.com/most-loved). Thank you for supporting local!



# NEW PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MOVES FORWARD



**T**he City of Santa Monica has long been committed to fair, safe, and effective community policing. In the wake of national and community-wide calls for racial justice, and condemnation of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and far too many others, the City Council initiated a community engagement process to review proposals for public safety reform. In the summer of 2020, a 15-member Public Safety Reform Advisory Committee appointed by the Interim City Manager began reviewing City public safety policies

to make sure that Santa Monica employs best practices to recognize the humanity and dignity of every person.

On September 8, 2020, the City Council reviewed recommendations made by this Committee and directed staff to implement many of the recommendations, including that Santa Monica create its first civilian

public safety oversight body. Creating a civilian oversight body is an important step Santa Monica needed to take to more meaningfully commit to its values of equity and inclusion, recognizing that equitable policing is a foundational principle of 21st Century Policing and that improving the relationship between the public and their police department has positive impacts far beyond issues of traditional policing.

With that in mind, on January 26, 2021, the Council adopted an Ordinance to create a new Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to:

- Promote, in partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), the best practices in community-oriented policing for the fair treatment, safety, and wellbeing of all; and
- Provide a body to work with SMPD and experts to develop, recommend, and help implement proposed reforms for handling complaints regarding SMPD conduct, including proposed reforms for the intake, review, and investigation of, and oversight of disciplinary decisions and policies relating to, such complaints.

The City opened applications for community members to serve on this Commission on February 17, and City Council will appoint the new 11-member commission in April 2021. For more information about the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission, visit [santamonica.gov/public-safety-reform-and-oversight-commission](http://santamonica.gov/public-safety-reform-and-oversight-commission).

## BLACK COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTNER WITH CITY TO HOLD DIALOGUE AND CREATE LOCAL NON-PROFIT TO ADVANCE ANTI-RACISM WORK

**B**lack community leaders collaborated with the City of Santa Monica to host “Courageous Conversations: Why Black Lives Matter,” a virtual community forum focused on taking action to address systemic racism.

Held on January 28, 2021, the two-hour event featured award-winning journalist and LA Times Columnist Erika D. Smith, and nationally renowned author, activist and award-winning journalist Earl Ofari Hutchinson who discussed their experiences covering social justice issues and offered their perspectives about how community members can work together to advance anti-racism in Santa Monica. The event was moderated by longtime Santa Monica resident Karen S. Gunn, Ph.D., an advocate for social justice and founding member of the Santa Monica Black Agenda. It also featured a moving spoken word performance by mental health entrepreneur, author and speaker Nakeya T. Fields.

Black community leaders took the opportunity to formally introduce the public to the Black Agenda and the newly-formed nonprofit agency, the Santa Monica Black Lives Association (SMBLA). The primary mission of SMBLA is to promote, support and build wellbeing, resilience, and culturally appropriate resources for the Black community. The agency plans to be a multi-service provider in the areas of health, wellness, mental health, family assistance, early intervention, and information and referral.

The intentions of the Black Agenda are to work collaboratively with the City to create opportunities for education, exploration and proactive response to the history and needs of the Black community. Advancing anti-racism efforts, overall, is a key goal. The “Courageous Conversations” event was the first of what is planned to be a series of discussions for

and with the community. The Agenda members will also work with other community allies in the areas of arts and culture, housing, police reform, education, civic engagement, employment and business development.

The Jan. 28 community forum is one in a series of forums Black community members plan to hold. View the event video at [santamonica.gov/equity](http://santamonica.gov/equity). Learn more about the Black Agenda and Santa Monica Black Lives Association and find out about upcoming events at [smbla.org](http://smbla.org). To read about the City’s equity work, including the Santa Monica City Council’s support of the formation of the Black Agenda and SMBLA, visit [santamonica.gov/equity](http://santamonica.gov/equity).



## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN SIGNED BY PRESIDENT BIDEN SUPPORTS SANTA MONICA'S RECOVERY

**P**rior to taking office in January of this year, then President-elect Joe Biden unveiled his \$1.9 trillion “American Rescue Plan”, an ambitious legislative package to fund COVID-19 vaccinations, provide direct federal relief to families, and support struggling communities across the US. The plan proposed \$350 billion in emergency funding for state and local governments to keep essential frontline workers employed, facilitate continued testing and vaccine distribution, reopen schools, and to aid in our collective economic recovery. Upon the plan’s release, the City advocated to our federal representatives in Congress and the White House to ensure that the unique needs of smaller cities such as Santa Monica were not left out of the formula that would eventually determine how much aid would be delivered to states and local municipalities like ours.



Our general fund is heavily dependent on our tourism-based economy, which supports our broader region, and the impacts of our revenue loss have been devastating. As a key tourism destination in the Los Angeles area, our recovery supports workers and industries far beyond our city limits and well beyond our population size.

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan with Santa Monica receiving \$29.3 million from the bill over the next year to help offset the substantial COVID-related revenue losses that the City budget has experienced over the first year of the pandemic. The American Rescue Plan will fast track community recovery by directly supporting our most vulnerable residents, as well as our local restaurants, addressing housing needs, and accelerating reopening of schools and the broader economy. While this one-time federal aid to the City represents a small fraction of the revenue lost due to COVID-19 and only approximately 4% of the City’s current operating budget, it will advance community priorities set by City Council through the biennial budget process.

To learn more about the American Rescue Plan and what it means for you, visit [whitehouse.gov/american-rescue-plan](http://whitehouse.gov/american-rescue-plan).



# SANTA MONICA BUSINESSES ARE SHINING BRIGHT WITH 'SHINES COVID-19 ASSURANCE PROGRAM AND SEAL,' MORE BUSINESSES ARE CALLED TO PARTICIPATE

**T**

he call is out to all remaining Santa Monica businesses – from corporate to independent to neighborhood favorites – to participate in the Santa Monica Shines COVID-19 Assurance Program and earn the Santa Monica Shines Assurance Seal to display their commitment to public safety during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Now that the regional Stay at Home order has been lifted and outdoor dining resumes in Santa Monica, more businesses are being urged to participate in the free citywide program that provides Santa Monica businesses the opportunity to follow a simple four-step Santa Monica Shines COVID-19 Assurance Program process at [ArrowUpSantamonica.com](http://ArrowUpSantamonica.com).



Currently more than 243 Santa Monica businesses have signed up for the Santa Monica Shines COVID-19 Assurance Program and over 90 businesses have earned their Santa Monica Shines Assurance Seal with 17% hotels, 49% restaurants, and 34% businesses currently displaying their commitment to public health and safety.

We invite all who work, live, and play here to see all the businesses that have earned their seal by visiting [santamonica.com/santa-monica-shines-assurance-program](http://santamonica.com/santa-monica-shines-assurance-program). They are ready to welcome you back and you will be supporting our local economic recovery and helping people get back to work. When you shop local, you do make a difference. According to Independent We Stand, for every \$10 spent at a Santa Monica business, as much as \$7 stays in the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditure. Spending locally ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested right here in Santa Monica.

The Santa Monica Shines COVID-19 Assurance program was created by the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism, Santa Monica College, Sustainable Works, and Arrow Up. The free program is available to all Santa Monica businesses from hotels, retail, and restaurants to offices, entrepreneurs and sole proprietors; all are encouraged to join. For more information, visit [santamonica.com/shines](http://santamonica.com/shines).

## SANTA MONICA FIRE SUPPORTS REGIONAL VACCINATION EFFORT

**S**anta Monica Fire firefighters and paramedics were among the first fire departments in Southern California to be offered the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. The roll out of the vaccine to 20 fire departments across Los Angeles County was coordinated by an Incident Management Team, comprised of experienced fire chiefs, and supported by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency. By the end of January much of the department received their second doses of the vaccine. The department is proud that out of their allotted doses for fire members all were administered safely, with no adverse effects, and no doses were wasted. This is a critical milestone in keeping all frontline medical personnel safe as they treat COVID-19 patients.

“The Santa Monica Fire Department works hard every day to protect the safety, health, and wellbeing of our community,” said Fire Chief Bill Walker. “It is critical that we ensure our Firefighters are available to respond to all emergencies and by getting vaccinated, we hope to keep them ready and available throughout this pandemic.”

Fire Department paramedics have also been completing the training necessary to administer the COVID-19 vaccination. The goal is to assist the City with its broader vaccination efforts for all city employees, and to be ready to help with a local community roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines in the future. To determine when you will be eligible to receive the vaccine

and to make appointments, visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](http://VaccinateLACounty.com). For more local information about accessing the vaccine, visit [santamonica.gov/blog/santa-monica-covid-19-vaccine-update](http://santamonica.gov/blog/santa-monica-covid-19-vaccine-update).



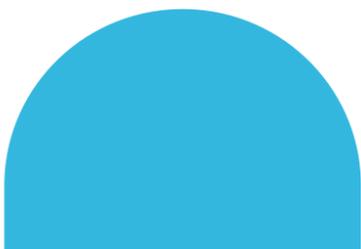
## CITY OF SANTA MONICA'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

### A look behind the scenes at the City's COVID-19 response

**T**he COVID-19 Public Health Emergency was declared on March 13, 2020 – just over one year ago! Once a public health emergency is declared, cities activate an Emergency Operations Center to quickly mobilize staff and resources to best meet the immediate and then ongoing needs of the community throughout the emergency. Staff are reassigned to critical roles to ensure the City is prioritizing the community's public health and minimizing the risks of COVID-19 exposures at every step. The team reviews the state, regional, and local situation status on a regular basis and pivots their focus regularly based on the highest community needs or new information received from LA County Department of Public Health or the State of California. Efforts include proactive and reactive measures to ensure our community prevents as many COVID-19 infections as possible and reopens programs in a safe way. Recent examples include outreach to residents and businesses to ensure the health order is implemented correctly, implementation of a COVID-19 Hotline throughout the pandemic to answer public questions, coordination with LA County on food distribution sites, creation of a health ambassador program, and ongoing collaboration with non-profit and community partners to ensure they have the latest information. The work is challenging but meaningful, and while we remain in the midst of hard times, we are now looking toward reopening including vaccination efforts and long-term economic recovery. For a look behind the scenes of the City of Santa Monica Emergency Operations Center and to meet some of our staff who have been supporting the entire community throughout this public health emergency, visit [santamonica.gov/blog](http://santamonica.gov/blog).



**Jose "Jay" Aguilar**  
Logistics Section  
Chief



**Judy Delgado**  
COVID-19 Hotline  
Customer Service



**Sharon Guidry**  
Code Enforcement  
Manager



**Jodi Mannino**  
Designated Infection Control  
Officer



**Steven Torrence**  
Emergency Services  
Administrator



# NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICERS PARTNER WITH THE COMMUNITY TO REDUCE CRIME



**T**he Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Program is based around the concept of community policing and collective involvement. This partnership between the citizens of Santa Monica and their law enforcement agency has proven to be remarkably successful in fighting crime. Neighborhood Resource Officers build relationships with neighborhood residents and merchants through regular face-to-face contact. To increase collaboration and accountability, the Santa Monica Police Department recently added four NROs to the program bringing the total to eight officers. The NROs are assigned to geographic areas within the City and work alongside Crime Prevention Coordinators to address issues affecting their beat. In addition, each of the NROs has chosen an area of expertise related to an issue or special population, such as youth, elders, or traffic safety.

The ongoing success of this program is attributable to the idea that the officers become intimately acquainted with the people that live and do business within their specific beat.

NRO participation in neighborhood watch groups, neighborhood associations, and trade groups is key. Other important functions of our NROs include:

- Working directly with members of the community to develop problem-solving solutions and taking responsibility for the outcomes.
- Acting as a liaison with patrol officers working in the NRO's beat to impact crime and quality of life issues, engage in community outreach, host/attend community events, interact with other divisions within the department to address community concerns, and work collaboratively with other City departments.
- Apply resources needed to implement effective community-oriented policing techniques.
- Maintain a leadership position in an operational area that the officer is responsible for.

The SMPD is proud to present the Neighborhood Resource Officers and Crime Prevention Coordinators of the Community Affairs Unit. For more information, visit [santamonicapd.org/nro](http://santamonicapd.org/nro).

## YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THIRD STREET PROMENADE



**D**owntown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM), the organization tasked with the responsibility of overseeing and advancing the vibrancy and long-lasting vitality of the world famous Third Street Promenade, has embarked on a process to develop a comprehensive private space plan to revitalize the iconic public street. The Third Street Promenade Stabilization and Economic Vitality Plan (Vitality Plan) will endeavor to build upon the Promenade's legacy as an enthralling, dynamic, and inclusive city center by focusing on the use of private properties and the development of new zoning elements that will create opportunities for modern and attractive uses like experiential retail, live entertainment, nightlife, museums, small scale manufacturing, and more.

We want to hear from you Santa Monica! Tell us what you love about the Promenade, what types of shopping, dining, and entertainment experiences you'd like to see in the future, and what makes you want to come out, hang, and make lasting memories with your friends and family.

Your participation is critical to this public process. Send your feedback to [promenade@downtownsm.com](mailto:promenade@downtownsm.com). For more information about the project, visit [DowntownSM.com/Promenade](http://DowntownSM.com/Promenade).

## ENJOY FRESH PRODUCE AT OUR FARMERS MARKETS

**D**id you know there are four weekly Certified farmers markets in the City of Santa Monica? Shopping outdoors in the fresh air is one of the most enjoyable experiences you can have.

In addition to showcasing the freshest California grown produce, each market accepts CalFresh (i.e. SNAP/food stamps). The Saturday Pico market in Virginia Avenue Park also matches your CalFresh benefits up to \$10 each week with fresh food vouchers called Market Match. Market Match is provided through our partners Hunger Action LA (HALA) who work to end hunger and promote healthy eating. Stop by the market information booth to process your food assistance transaction and visit [hungeractionla.org](http://hungeractionla.org) to learn more about HALA.

You can always find high-quality and unique seasonal items at the markets. To ensure that the products you buy are grown and sold directly by California Farmers, Certified farmers' markets in California are inspected regularly by the Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture (CDFA). All participating farmers are also inspected annually by the CDFA in the county where they farm. The four Santa Monica Certified farmers markets support over 140 farm families who sell a wide variety of produce and processed farm products including fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, shelled nuts, eggs, and cheese. You will also find fish, meats, and

processed products like grains, preserves, raw milk, nut butters, and even heritage grain pasta or breads at some of the markets.

### WEEKLY MARKETS

- **Wednesdays & Saturdays**  
Arizona Ave. @ 3rd St.  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Saturdays**  
Virginia Avenue Park,  
2200 Virginia Ave.  
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Sundays**  
2640 Main Street  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Be sure to follow us [@SMFMS](https://twitter.com/SMFMS) for seasonal updates and information!



# SANTA MONICA LAUNCHING NEW SUSTAINABILITY CALCULATOR FOR RESIDENTS



**S**anta Monica is a community that cares about the future of our planet, and we have been for decades.

As a community, we see the effects of climate change happening right here in Santa Monica: beach erosion, extreme climate events like wildfires, heatwaves, and inequitable access to resources. We must take even bolder steps to care for the future of our planet. Adopted in May 2019, the City of Santa Monica's Climate Action Plan set ambitious goals for reducing our water, waste, and energy use to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Some of our high-level goals from this plan include:

- Becoming water self-sufficient by 2023.
- Diverting 95% of materials from landfills, and averaging 1.1 pounds of waste per person per day (PPD) by 2030.
- Creating Zero Net Carbon Buildings, including 100% renewable grid electricity and reducing fossil fuel use in existing buildings by 20%, by 2030.
- Converting 50% of local trips to foot, bike, scooter or skateboard; 25% of commuter trips to transit; and 50% of personal vehicles to electric or zero emission by 2030.

This work will take community support and participation.

## TAKE ACTION

To help us all make more sustainable choices, the City of Santa Monica Office of Sustainability has launched a new tool to help you calculate your environmental impact so we can better connect you to available resources and programs. This quick quiz will provide opportunities for individuals to take immediate action towards supporting citywide climate goals.

In the coming months, the Office of Sustainability will provide more opportunities to help you live more thoughtfully and sustainability in our local community.

Visit [santamonica.gov/sustainableSaMo](https://santamonica.gov/sustainableSaMo) to start your journey.



# BUSINESS LEADERS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE WITH 25TH SUSTAINABLE QUALITY AWARDS

**T**he Sustainable Quality Awards return April 29 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of this prominent business award. The 2020 SQA winners will be honored, as well as recognizing Santa Monica businesses that have maintained sustainable practices over the years.

As the longest running and most rigorous sustainable business awards program in Southern California, the SQA has recognized 163 businesses with over 210 awards since its inception in 1995. In addition to environmental excellence, SQA businesses are recognized for their outstanding efforts in social responsibility and economic development. Even in today's climate, these businesses are choosing to put people, planet, and purpose as a priority. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, the City of Santa Monica, and Sustainable Works are proud to celebrate sustainable businesses and recognize their important role in the community and culture of Santa Monica.

Congratulations! 2020 Grand Prize Winner: Bird Rides Inc. 2020 Excellence Winners: Capital One Café Santa Monica, Duvivier Architects, Inspire, Kite Pharma, Reformation, and Santa Monica Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center.

For more information or to register for this year's virtual ceremony, visit [smsqa.com](https://smsqa.com).

25 years of celebrating Santa Monica Businesses

## Sustainable Quality Awards

**THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 29, 2021**  
**12:00 - 1:30 PM**  
**Virtual Ceremony**  
**Register [smsqa.com](https://smsqa.com)**

In partnership with

# DELIVERY GOES CLEAN IN SANTA MONICA

**I**n February, the City of Santa Monica and the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI) launched the nation's first ever voluntary Zero Emissions Delivery Zone (ZEDZ) in the commercial core of the City. The one-square mile area (roughly bound by Wilshire Blvd on the north, Lincoln Blvd on the east, and the City boundary on the south), will test various types of light-duty zero emission transportation technologies (like delivery robots, e-cargo bikes, and light electric trucks), supportive charging infrastructure, and incentive strategies (like prioritized curb access). The goal is to encourage smaller and cleaner technologies to deliver goods instead of the large diesel-fueled trucks we're used to seeing on our streets.



E-commerce is seeing unprecedented demand due to the global pandemic, and the increase in deliveries means more pollution and congestion, which directly impacts public health. The ZEDZ is timely as it will support Santa Monica's economic development during a crucial time of recovery by providing local businesses a new option for reliable fast delivery to residents, and local startups innovating the delivery practices an opportunity for market growth. The ZEDZ will benefit the local community with improved air quality, noise and congestion reduction, and improved delivery efficiency for zone participants.

The pilot program brings together multiple community partners that have provided feedback on the pilot process from the beginning. These include Climate Action Santa Monica, Ocean Park Association, Santa Monica Spoke, Main Street Business Improvement Association, and Downtown Santa Monica. The following delivery partners will be participating in the zone and testing their new technologies: Ikea, Axlehire, Guayaki, AlSCO Uniforms, Foodcycle, Shopify, and REEF Technologies. The tech providers include LACI startups Automotus, Maxwell Vehicles, Circuit, and FreeWire as well as collaborations with Coco, Kiwibot, Tortoise, Rollo, Blue Systems, Fluid Truck, Motiv Power Systems, Nissan, ROUSH CleanTech, and Lighting eMotors. The Pilot Program will last through December 2021. Findings, best practices, and lessons learned from the pilot program will be compiled into a case study report to be shared widely, with the goal of creating a scalable model of Zero-Emissions Delivery to be deployed in the Greater LA region and beyond.

For more information about the Zero Emission Delivery Zone, visit [smgov.net/departments/ose/categories/transportation.aspx](https://smgov.net/departments/ose/categories/transportation.aspx).

# GoSaMo Launches Electric Bike Buying Guide

The growing interest in biking since the start of the pandemic has also generated interest in electric bicycles (e-bikes). With an electric boost every time you pedal, e-bikes make it easy to ride on hilly streets, run errands, and commute to work. GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization has developed an E-Bike Buying Guide to make selecting a bike as easy as possible!



## Which e-bike is right for me?

It depends on how you plan to use one and the storage you have available at home.

- **Commuting:** A road/commuter bike or a folding bike if you also use transit.
- **Errands, Shopping, and Transporting Children:** Cargo Bikes! They're like the workhorse of the e-bike world. Borrow one for free from the City's Family Cargo Bike Library at [santamonica.gov/familycargobikelibrary](http://santamonica.gov/familycargobikelibrary).
- **Exercise and Mountain Riding:** A mountain e-bike has a suspension fork and is built to higher standards.

**Where can I buy an e-bike?** Here in Santa Monica! Visit [santamonica.gov/buylocalbikes](http://santamonica.gov/buylocalbikes) to find a bike shop. Download the guide at [santamonica.gov/e-bike-guide](http://santamonica.gov/e-bike-guide).

## GoSaMo Achievement Award Winners Celebrate Sustainable Commuting

On March 25, the GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization and the City's Mobility Division honored 23 local businesses as winners of the 2019-2020 GoSaMo Achievement Awards. Although work commute habits have changed with COVID-19, these businesses continued to operate outstanding multi-modal commuting programs. For more information, visit [santamonica.gov/gosamoachievementawards](http://santamonica.gov/gosamoachievementawards).

<b>PLATINUM</b>	Kite Pharma (Stewart St. and Broadway locations)
<b>GOLD</b>	Kite Pharma (17th St)   King's Seafood
<b>SILVER</b>	Arclight at Santa Monica Place   Bird Rides   Burke Williams Spa   Crossroads School   DoubleTree Guest Suites Hotel   Edmunds   Georgian Hotel   Heal the Bay   Izzy's Deli   Macerich   McDonald's (Lincoln Blvd.)   McDonald's (2nd St.)   Pacific Park   Santa Monica College   Synder-Diamond   Urth Caffé   Viceroy Santa Monica   Westside Family Health Center   Wilshire Associates, Inc.



**GoSaMo**

## NEW SERVICES FROM THE SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY

To help our community find resources, access materials, learn and be inspired, the Library is offering some exciting new services.

**Dial-a-Story** is a free, fun way for your child to hear an exciting story. Stories are pre-recorded in English, Spanish, and Mandarin and can be accessed by phone any time of day. Stories are selected and recorded by staff. New stories are available weekly. Call (424) 610-8600 to hear a free story 24 hours/7 days a week.

Need some fun and inspired activities for the kids? Each month look for a new **Take & Make Activity Kit** for kids and families at Library curbside pickup locations while supplies last. The kits are curated by Librarians to focus on relevant themes. The different kits, available in English and Spanish, feature STEAM concepts, cultural diversity, art, history, as well as enhancing motor skills and wellbeing. Make whatever your imagination can dream up. The most important thing is that you create something that is special to you.

By popular community request we have added evening hours to our contactless curbside pickup. Curbside service hours at all pickup locations will now be 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Find out more at [smpl.org/curbside](http://smpl.org/curbside).

### PICKUP LOCATIONS AND HOURS

**Main Library & Pico Branch Library**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and the first Saturday of the month  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Montana Avenue Branch**  
Monday  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place a hold at [smpl.org](http://smpl.org) or by calling (310) 458-8600 to pick up items at your preferred location: Main Library, Pico Branch, or Montana Avenue Branch. Wait to receive the email, text, or phone notification that your hold items are ready, then drop in to pick up your items at your selected location. When picking up items, please bring your library card or photo ID, wear a mask, and practice physical distancing. We look forward to seeing you at the library!





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2021 STATE OF THE CITY AND YEAR IN REVIEW

Learn more about our community road to recovery at the Annual State of the City co-hosted with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. Watch now at [youtu.be/OrCILDyG3Z8](https://youtu.be/OrCILDyG3Z8) and see a recap of 2020 at [santamonica.gov/2020recap](https://santamonica.gov/2020recap).

## JOBS INFO

We know many in our community are looking for work. Check out our resources for Job Seekers at [santamonica.gov/economicrecovery/jobresources](https://santamonica.gov/economicrecovery/jobresources) including a new listing of Santa Monica employers that are hiring. Let's hire local, Santa Monica!

## SANTA MONICA BUSINESSES: NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY FLOOR CLINGS

As part of the City's *Art of Recovery* initiative, we're offering artist-designed floor clings and signage intended for local shops, restaurants, businesses, and non-profits. These clings were designed by Jeanine Centuori and Russell Rock and elevate critical messages like *Mask Up*, *Avoid Crowding*, and *Wait Here Until Clear* to bring a new awareness to the behaviors that are critical to keeping our community safe. If your business would be interested in resources like these, email [info@santamonica.gov](mailto:info@santamonica.gov).

## NEW UTILITY SELF-SERVICE PORTAL AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

We are continuing to make progress toward an improved digital and customer experience with the launch of a new and improved Utility Self-Service Portal and new website payment options. Residents and businesses will still be able to view and pay bills on-line and access the portal from any device including mobile phones and tablets. For more information about the utility self-service, visit [santamonica.gov/utility-billing](https://santamonica.gov/utility-billing) or contact (310) 458-8224, ext. 1. New website payment options will begin to roll out this spring including Venmo and Paypal making your experience even easier!

## SENIOR BEACH PARKING PERMITS

Using this permit, California residents, ages 62 and over, can park at all beach parking lots during the posted time limits. Apply today at [smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Permits/Senior-Beach-Parking-Permit](https://smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Permits/Senior-Beach-Parking-Permit).

## SENIOR CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Preserving Our Diversity program provides cash assistance to very low-income older adults (65+) who are longtime Santa Monica residents in rent-controlled apartments. Qualifying households can receive up to \$700/month for one-person households and up to \$1,225/month for two-person households. The exact amounts will vary depending on income, rent, and household size. For more info, visit [santamonica.gov/pod](https://santamonica.gov/pod).

# WE LOVE YOU, SANTA MONICA!

**T**here's no place in the world like Santa Monica. And nobody loves it more than we do. We'd love to hear your love letter to Santa Monica: when did you meet this city, how did you fall in love, and why are you so passionate about this place? Write a love letter to Santa Monica. Be creative - type it, write it, paint a picture - just tell us what makes our community so special and why you love living here. We'd love to hear from you.

We are in the beginning stages of a project designed to define a shared identity for our city and it is important to hear from as many individuals within our community as possible. As we start to emerge from the pandemic and assess all of the attributes that make up our community, this process will assist us in our economic recovery as we further define who we are, the experiences offered, and being able to communicate in one shared voice to the outside world.

### There are two ways to participate:

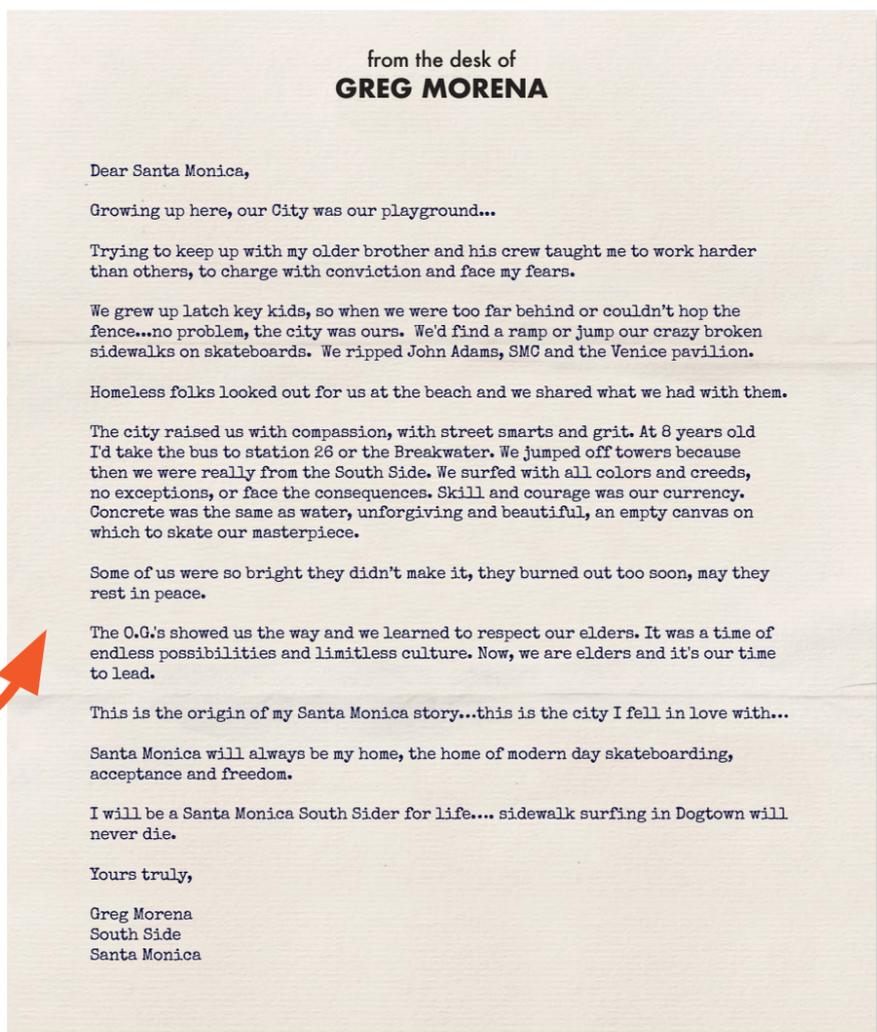
1. Write a love letter to Santa Monica
2. Take a short survey



## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Share your story at [santamonica.gov/loveletters](https://santamonica.gov/loveletters) or on social media using the hashtag #WeAreSantaMonica and #SantaMonicaLoveLetters. Take our short survey at [santamonica.gov/loveletters](https://santamonica.gov/loveletters).

**Note:** All love letter and survey submissions may be used in digital and print public displays and outreach materials including *Seascope*, our website, and social media posts, and will be shared with the project team to inform this effort.



# PUBLIC MEETINGS AND REOPENING INFO

## City Council Meetings

April 13, April 27, May 11, and May 25 at 5:30 p.m

City Council will be held via teleconference during the COVID-19 public health emergency. More info: [santamonica.gov/council](https://santamonica.gov/council)

## Boards and Commissions

For updates on meetings for Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces, go to [smgov.net/clerk](https://smgov.net/clerk) or call (310) 458-8411.

## Rent Control Board

April 8, May 13, and June 10 at 7 p.m.

## Planning Commission

April 21 and June 16 at 5:30pm

## Airport Commission

April 26, May 24, and June 28 at 4 p.m.

## Architectural Review Board

April 19, May 17, and June 21 at 7 p.m.

## Library Board

April 1, May 6, and June 3 at 7 p.m.

## Personnel Board

April 22, May 27, and June 24 at 4:30 pm

## City Facility Reopening Information

Every day, the focus for the City of Santa Monica is how to best serve the Santa Monica community. We are deeply committed to the health and safety of our City staff and the public we serve. We have remained open and serving the public throughout the pandemic. We will thoughtfully phase in staff who have been working remotely in accordance with LA County Public Health guidance. We will announce updates to in person services at [santamonica.gov/coronavirus-reopenings](https://santamonica.gov/coronavirus-reopenings).

*Seascope* is a publication of the City of Santa Monica, designed to inform the community about City programs and services. Info is up-to-date as of the 3/17 printing deadline. Please email comments to [manager@santamonica.gov](mailto:manager@santamonica.gov) or mail to:

*Seascope*  
City of Santa Monica  
1685 Main Street, Room 209  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

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